

Shelly Engler  
2436 Snapdragon  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Pat Murdo  
EAIC  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620

October 5, 2005

Dear Pat,

I am writing to include some comments for the upcoming work group meeting on October 12, 2005. I am planning on attending the meeting, but do not anticipate making verbal statements if my written statement will be available. My comments relate to your outline of 9/13/2005 as follows:

- 1) See 2c
2. A) There seems to be inconsistent legal definitions and interpretations as to what constitutes title vs. practice law. Legal staff for the Board of Landscape Architects did not feel Montana has a practice act, but a national review and evaluation of all states conducted by the American Society of Landscape Architects determined Montana law was consistent with practice laws in other states.
2. B) Encourage consistency in number and composition from one board to another. This would make board administration more efficient.
2. C) As a member of the Board of Landscape Architects I have observed a critical failure in defining the role of a board in directing budget restraints and defining and prioritizing services. It seems the department "budgets" by establishing what it will spend and then raising revenue to meet expenses, rather than setting expenses to fit within restrictions of the revenue source. Our board has had no success in restricting type and amount of services in order to bring expenses into line with revenue.

We also need a method of transitioning from one accounting method to another. I believe the crisis our board is facing was created by a change in the method the department uses in computing recharges. We need a time period to evaluate the impacts of such changes, provide accurate figures to the boards involved and allow time for a logical, constructive process for boards and departments to address the situation. Procedures should allow for proactive solutions.

I would suggest that boards representing smaller numbers of professionals or professions with fewer judiciary actions might not need the same level of services, staff numbers, legal advisors, etc. as larger boards.

- 3.e) Define policies and procedures for suspension of services.